



The Connecticut  
Women's Consortium

*Improving  
Behavioral Health Services  
for Women*

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February 14, 2013

Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Toni Harp and Toni Walker,

I am writing this letter to the Appropriations Committee because of my concern about the merger of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women with the Commissions on children, Asian-Americans, Latinos and African-Americans. I strongly object to the notion that women's issues are interchangeable with those of other groups there are 157 million females in the United States per the 2010 census. As the Executive Director of the CT Women's Consortium I call to question how women will be served well under this consolidation. It is my belief that gender really does matter and that we need to continue the efforts that have already been made. We can not afford to eliminate the chances of women being discriminated against because of gender.

On average, full-time working women earn just 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. This gap in pay has real life consequences. With women bringing home less money it means they have less for everyday needs of their families and over a lifetime of work, far less savings for retirement. On a national level the Obama Administration's commitment to closing the pay gap is evident in the report which was released earlier this year on the accomplishments of the Equal Pay Task Force which he established in 2010. In 2012 President Obama said, "When more women are bringing home the bacon, but bringing home less of it than men who are doing the same work, that weakens families, it weakens communities it's tough on our kids, it weakens our entire economy".

The gender gap in pay persists and so must the ongoing work of The Permanent Commission on the status of Women. The word Permanent is defined as fixed and changeless lasting or meant to last indefinitely. If this is not possible then at least wait until the goals for which the commission was established have all been met. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a of the CT General Statutes to study and improve CT women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to Leadership positions; and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. Please allow this commission to remain intact until these goals are met.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Anderson, LCSW  
Executive Director  
The CT Women's Consortium